



CT-PHCC

PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
JOE PELLECCCHIA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT (CT-PHCC)
OPPOSING SB-666, AN ACT CONCERNING MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN RENTAL
PROPERTIES
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
FEBRUARY 8, 2011**

The Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors of Connecticut (CT-PHCC) is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut. **As such, CT-PHCC strongly opposes SB-666, An Act Concerning Maintenance of Certain Rental Properties.**

CT-PHCC members feel that this legislation circumvents long-established state licensing laws for the occupational trades, is not needed, and could, unfortunately, only serve to potentially endanger residents and the public. Allowing unlicensed persons to perform work on residential properties could result in unsafe conditions and possibly harm tenants, their guests and their property.

Members of the plumbing, heating and cooling industry are subject to a state licensing scheme for occupational trades, and our profession is overseen by the relevant examining board. CT-PHCC contractors and our workers must meet education, training, and experience requirements to receive our licenses and legally perform work in the state of Connecticut. In addition, our contractors and journeymen undergo mandatory continuing education which includes the latest technological and building code changes, as well as a safety component. All of these steps are taken and requirements are met to ensure that individuals performing work on residential properties are held to high standards and also helps maintain the highest possible level of safety, training and professionalism. There is no substitute for the type of training and requirements, (including a "mechanic's license" or even an engineering degree, as contemplated in the bill) or a degree in engineering that CT-PHCC members and all those involved in the plumbing, heating and cooling trades are subject to. We therefore ask the committee to reject SB-666. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Founded in 1890, the Connecticut Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors is the not-for-profit trade association that represents union and non-union plumbing, heating and cooling contractors throughout the state.

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